

application of Serial No. 09/040,825 filed March 18, 1998 (the "parent application").

In the Office Action dated January 14, 2000, the claims in the parent application stand finally rejected. An Amendment After Final Rejection was filed May 15, 2000.

The Examiner responded to the Amendment in Advisory Action dated May 26, 2000 in which she maintained the rejections of the claims and stated that Applicant's proposed Amendments raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. A telephone conference was held with the Examiner on June 20, 2000 to discuss the final rejection, Advisory action and status of the application and claims.

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment in advance of examination to overcome the Examiners rejections stated in the Office Action and Advisory Action of the parent application and to further define the claims of the invention.

A petition for a three-month extension of time has been requested in the parent application to permit filing of the present continued prosecution application (see enclosed copy).

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

D1 At page 8, after line 20 insert "Preferred copolymers of the invention have a molecular weight from 20,000 to 150,000."

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 and 2; and amend claims 3 to 7 and 11 as follows:

D2 3. (Twice Amended). A recording sheet for ink jet printing according to claim 12 [2] wherein said layer forms a film.

4. (Twice Amended). A recording sheet for ink jet printing according to claim 12 [2] wherein said layer further contains a crosslinking agent.

5. (Twice Amended). ~~A [a]~~ recording sheet according to claim 12 [1] wherein said copolymer has [an average] a molecular weight from 20,000 to 150,000.

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6. (Twice Amended). A recording sheet according to claim 12 [2] wherein said binder or binders are selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, gelatine, starch, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose, methoxyethyl cellulose, gum arabic, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl-methyl pyrrolidone and casein.

7. (Twice Amended). A recording sheet according to claim 12 [2] wherein said binder or binders are selected from the group consisting of polymers or copolymers derived from acrylic acid and esters of acrylic acid.

11. (Amended). A recording sheet according to claim 12 [1] where R is H or CH₃.

[Please add the following new claim:]